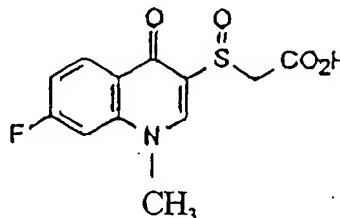


## CLAIMS

1. A composition comprising 3-carboxymethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-3-methyl-4-quinolone having the corresponding structure:



2. A method, comprising:

a) providing:

i) 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone; and

ii) a first acid;

b) reacting said 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone and said first acid under conditions such that 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced.

3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising: c) reacting said 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone with; i) a second acid and ii) a peroxide under conditions such that 3-carboxymethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced.